

**The Speech of H.E. Minister of Justice of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan at the
commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of The Adoption of the Rome Statute of the
International Criminal Court**

Awuzu Billahi Mina Shaitani Rajeem

Bismillahi Rahmani Raheem

Respectable Participants, Excellencies Ministers of Justice, Distinguished Representatives of the Participant Countries, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Asalamu Alikm Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu

At the outset, allow me to personally and on behalf of the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, express the earnest and profound appreciation and gratefulness for the invitation extended to us to participate in this grand and splendid event, to His Excellency Judge Chile Eboe-Osuji, President, and Mr. O-Gon Kwon, President of the Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court and the conveners of this great congregation.

I sincerely congratulate the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court to tackle and address the crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and crime of aggression, to all the justice seekers throughout the world.

Afghanistan submitted its application for the membership of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on February 10th, 2003. The Rome Statute came into effect on Afghanistan from May 1st, 2003, and the text of the Statute, after legal processes by the Ministry of Justice of Afghanistan, approval of parliament of this country, and its translation into the two official languages of the country, was published in the official gazette.

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, as a member of the international community, is bound to have accession to all international treaties and conventions and incorporate provisions of these instruments into its relevant laws. Article (7) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan obliges the government to observe inter-governmental treaties and international conventions, which Afghanistan has accession to. For the first time in the history of Afghanistan, with due regard and respect to the values of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal

Court, the crimes set forth in the Rome Statute, including crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes against the State, have been included in the newly codified “Penal Code” of Afghanistan.

In the Penal Code of Afghanistan, all common international principals have been observed, and on the basis of this, one of the main sections of the Penal Code that encompasses four chapters has been codified in full consistency with the Rome Statute. This in itself, is a vivid indication of the commitment of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in implementing the provisions of the Rome Statute, as well as fulfilling its obligations towards the international community.

Notwithstanding the fact that the statutory limitation period has been envisaged as a principle for collapse of crimes and punishment in other crimes, the Criminal Procedure Code of Afghanistan has not subjected the crimes included in the Rome Statute, to the passage of time (statutory limitation) due to their high importance and significance.

Creation of such a legal structure for further cooperation with the International Criminal Court, reveals this fact that Afghanistan is earnestly willing to promote further cooperation with the International Criminal Court, having an aim to investigate, address and process crimes that fall within the jurisdiction of the Court.

Last but not least, I would like to express my warm and deepest gratitude and thankfulness to the International Criminal Court for organizing this tremendous gathering for the purpose of maintaining the values of the Rome Statute in combating crimes against humanity and injustices in the world, I wish further success and achievements to the organizers of this conference and the participants.

Wa Salam-u-Alikm Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

Thank You